

PATENT
450101-03178**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 8-14 are pending in this application. Claims 8, 13, and 14 are independent. Claims 1-7 have are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more divisional applications. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

The Title is hereby amended.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite, are canceled herein, obviating the rejection.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Previous claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Japanese Application No. 9-214935 to Kurihara.

New independent claim 8, recites, *inter alia*:

“A data-providing apparatus attached to a plurality of user apparatuses over a network, said data-providing apparatus comprising:

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receiving unit configured to receive data transmitted from said user apparatus;

user contents control unit configured to control recording of the data received by the receiving unit into a recording area corresponding to each user apparatus;

shared contents control unit configured to control the recorded contents set to be shared by a user who transmits the contents; and

data-supplying unit configured to supply data set to be shared to the user apparatus in response to a demand made by the user apparatus.”

As understood by Applicant, by Japanese Application No. 9-214935 to Kurihara (hereinafter, merely “Kurihara”) relates to realizing unified management of multimedia data by storing attribute information of various data stored in a video server and a file server to a database of a control server by using a data processing program group and a database management system.

Applicant respectfully submits that nothing has been found in Kurihara that would teach or disclose the above-identified features of independent claim 8. Therefore, claim 8 is patentable.

For reason similar to those described above, claims 13 and 14 are also believed to be patentable.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Previous claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over by Japanese Application No. 9-214935 to Kurihara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,771 to Rangan, et al.

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Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over by Japanese Application No. 9-214935 to Kurihara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,314 to Neel, et al.

Applicant submits that neither Neel nor Rangan provide the disclosure missing in Kurihara.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

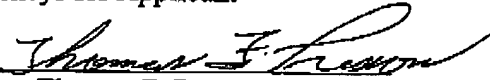
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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